

Washington, DC – Today, Harry Teague announced that \$354,902 has been awarded to New Mexico to support job training and placement services. The funding, allocated by the Department of Labor (DOL) through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will help to develop training to help New Mexicans get back to work, especially in geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the recession.

“In these difficult economic times, it is vital that we work to combat unemployment in our communities,” said Harry Teague. “On-the-job training and workforce placement programs allow New Mexicans to expand their skills without forcing families to choose between putting food on the table and taking time away from work. These grants will put New Mexicans back to work while continuing to grow our local businesses and economy.”

The majority of the funding will be distributed through On-the-Job Training Grants, which provide training and job opportunities to jump start re-employment for dislocated workers experiencing prolonged unemployment. Participants are given a chance to “earn and learn,” developing applicable occupational skills while earning a paycheck. The projects help to encourage employers to hire well-qualified individuals sooner than perhaps initially planned to contribute to their bottom line and spur economic recovery.

New Mexico’s funding is part of \$75 million awarded to 41 states, the District of Columbia and three federally recognized Native American tribes today by the Department of Labor.

“Today’s grants will help dislocated workers across the country learn while they earn. For most that will mean not just employment, but also the chance to receive training that allows them to upgrade their skills,” said US Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis. “As our economic recovery takes hold, this investment presents a win-win scenario. After all, workers are not the only ones who benefit from the approach. On-the-job training programs also offer tremendous returns for employers who commit time and other resources to training and hiring employees.”

Teague, an advocate of on the job employment training, previously passed legislation in the House to provide training opportunities for veterans who get hired in energy businesses.

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